

[2 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

**Tatkal scheme**

564. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints on its Tatkal scheme regarding charging of fare from passenger from first of last station of the train, the fixed charge passengers have to pay and the period in advance by which tickets are issued; and

(b) whether Government have examined these complaints, if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Some complaints were received regarding charging of fare under Tatkal Scheme from originating to terminating point of the train with boarding facility from intermediate station. These complaints were replied on the basis of extant position at that time.

.However, in view of this as well as informal feedback received, the matter was re-examined and the zonal Railways were authorised to take decision to allow booking under Tatkal scheme from end to end or keeping it free or allowing it from intermediate station depending upon the demand pattern.

The Advance Reservation Period (ARP) for booking tickets under Tatkal scheme is five days excluding the day of journey. This ARP has been kept -with a view to enable passengers to book accommodation under this scheme through Internet also.

Since the scheme has been generally appreciated, at present, no review is deemed necessary.

**Air-conditioned bogies**

565. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to facilitate all mail and express trains bogies with air-conditioned facility;

(b) if so, by when Railways could provide such A/C facilities to all the passengers of mail/express trains in the country;